

The Hongkong Telegraph.

N°. 2911

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER

Banks.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK
CORPORATION, LIMITED.
AUTHORISED CAPITAL £2,000,000.
PAID-UP CAPITAL £50,000.

LONDON: Head Office, 40, Threadneedle Street,
West End Office, 135, Cockspur Street.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN
AND THE COLONIES.

THE BANK receives MONEY ON DEPOSIT,
Buys and Sells BILLS OF EXCHANGE,
Issues LETTERS OF CREDIT, forwards BILLS for
COLLECTION, and Transacts Banking and
Agency Business generally, on terms to be had
on application.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS:
Fixed for 12 months, 5 per Cent. per Annum
" 6 " 4 " "

ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS
5 per Cent. per Annum on the Daily Balance.

E. W. RUTTER,
Manager.

Insurances.

THE FUNDS
OF THE
STANDARD LIFE OFFICE
ARE invested entirely within the British
Dominions and are thus free from the
complications which might arise in time of war.
They now amount to Seven Millions Sterling,
and have increased 50 per cent in the last 15
years.

DODWELL, CARLILL & CO.,
Agents, Hongkong.

SOUTH BRITISH FIRE AND MARINE
INSURANCE COMPANY OF
NEW ZEALAND.

THE Undersigned are prepared to accept
FIRE and MARINE INSURANCES on
favourable terms.

Current rates and a guaranteed Bonus equal
to that paid by the local Offices.

GEORGE R. STEVENS & CO.,
Agents,
No. 2, Queen's Road, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 31st March, 1891. [1044]

GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE
ASSURANCE COMPANY IN
LONDON.

THE Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company, are pre-
pared to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE and
LIFE at Current Rates.

REUTER, BROCKELMANN & CO.,
Hongkong, 1st July, 1891. [1045]

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY
LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED £1,000,000.

The above Company is prepared to accept
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on GOODS,
&c. Policies granted to all Parts of the world
payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN,
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,
No. 2, Queen's Road West,
Hongkong, 1st February, 1891. [1046]

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY,
(LIMITED).

CAPITAL, TAELS 600,000, } \$833,333.33
EQUAL TO \$833,333.33
RESERVE FUND \$318,000.00

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEE SING, Esq. | LO YEE MOON, Esq.
LOU TSO SHUN, Esq.

MANAGER—HO AMEL.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, &c., taken
at CURRENT RATES on all parts of the
world.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST,
Hongkong, 1st February, 1891. [1047]

Notices of Firms.

NOTICE.

THE STEAM LAUNCH COMPANY,
LIMITED.

THE Undersigned have this day RE-
SIGNED the MANAGEMENT of the above
Company.

A. G. GORDON & CO., Ltd.
Hongkong, 1st August, 1891. [1048]

WITH reference to the above, I will continue
the Business of Launch Hiring in
future in my own name and for my own
Account.

A. G. GORDON,
Hongkong, 1st August, 1891. [1048]

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned have been appointed SOLE
Agents for Hongkong and China for the
KINNEY BROS. New York branch of the
American Tobacco (Trust) Company's well-
known brands of "SWEET CAPORAL,"
"STRAIGHT CUT," "FULL DRESS," &c.,
&c., CIGARETTES and TOBACCOES.

ARNHOLD, KARBERG & CO.,
Hongkong, 17th July, 1891. [1049]

NOTICE.

I SHALL continue to carry on business at
Takow and Taiwanfu (Formosa) as
MERCHANT and GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT
D. MONCRIEFF WRIGHT.
Taiwanfu, 15th July, 1891. [1050]

NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA,
LIMITED.

M. R. A. B. MCKEEAN is authorised to sign
all documents and exercise all Powers
necessary for the conduct of the Business of the
Bank as ACTING CHIEF MANAGER.
CHAU TUNG SHANG, WILLIAM WOTTON,
CHAN KIT SHAN, Directors.
D. GILLIES, KWAN OI CHUN,
Hongkong, 14th July, 1891. [1051]

Intimations.

WANTED.

R E P O R T E R
FOR THE
HONGKONG TELEGRAPH.

Apply, by Letter only, to
THE EDITOR,
Hongkong, 4th August, 1891.

BOARD AND LODGING.

COMFORTABLY FURNISHED ROOMS
with Board.

Apply to
Mrs. MATHER,
2, Pedder's Hill,
Hongkong, 20th July, 1891. [1052]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTUR-
ING COMPANY, LIMITED.

A N EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL
MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will
be held at the Company's Office, Victoria,
Hongkong, on MONDAY, the 17th day of
August, 1891, at 11 o'clock a.m., when the
Special Resolutions which were passed at the
Extraordinary General Meeting held to-day will
be submitted for confirmation.

SHEWAN & CO.,
Temporary General Managers.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1891. [1053]

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP
COMPANY, LIMITED.

A N EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL
MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will
be held at the Company's Office, Victoria,
Hongkong, on MONDAY, the 17th day of
August, 1891, at 11.15 o'clock a.m., when the
Special Resolutions which were passed at the
Extraordinary General Meeting held to-day will
be submitted for confirmation.

SHEWAN & CO.,
Temporary General Managers.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1891. [1054]

THE HONGKONG CLUB.

A N EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL
MEETING will be held on THURSDAY,
the 20th August, at 4.30 p.m., for the purpose of
confirming the resolution passed at the Meeting
on July 31st, viz.:—

"That the Committee be authorised to carry out
the alterations in accordance with the plans
and Estimates before the Meeting."

By order of the Committee,

ED. INO. BOARDS,
Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1891. [1054]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION.

NOTICE is hereby given that the Ordinary
Yearly MEETING of the SHARE-
HOLDERS in this Corporation will be held at
the City Hall, Hongkong, on SATURDAY,
the 22nd day of August current, at 12 o'clock Noon,
for the purpose of receiving the Report of the
Court of Directors, together with Statement of
Accounts to goth June, 1891.

By Order of the Court of Directors.

F. DE BOVIS,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 30th July, 1891. [1054]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING
CORPORATION.

NOTICE is hereby given that the REGIS-
TERS of SHARES of the Corporation will be CLOSED
from Saturday, the 8th, to Saturday, the 22nd day of August current, (both
days inclusive), during which period no Transfer
of Shares can be Registered.

By Order of the Court of Directors.

F. DE BOVIS,
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, 30th July, 1891. [1055]

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK
COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE Ordinary Half-yearly MEETING of
SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the
Offices of the Company, No. 14, Praya Central,
on MONDAY, the 24th August, at Three p.m.,
for the purpose of receiving the Report of the
Directors and the Statement of Accounts to
goth June, 1891.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company
will be CLOSED from the 10th to 24th of August,
both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

D. GILLIES,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 4th August, 1891. [1055]

THE HONGKONG CANTON AND MACAO
STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE DIVIDEND at the Rate of 4 per cent.
or \$0.80 per Share, declared at the Ordinary
Half-yearly Meeting of Shareholders held
this day, will be payable at the Hongkong and
Shanghai Banking Corporation on and after
SATURDAY, the 1st August.

Shareholders are requested to apply at the
Office of the Company for Warrants.

By Order of the Board of Directors.

T. ARNOLD,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 31st July, 1891. [1056]

NOTICE.

THE PARTNERSHIP of Mr. HASSUMBOY
PURDHANBHOO in our Firm has been
DISSOLVED from the 30th July, 1891, and our
Firm will continue the business under the name
and style of RAHIMTULLABHOO PEER-
BHOO & CO. We further undertake the responsi-
bilities of all the dealings we have made
already under the name and style of HASSUM-
BOY RAHIMTULLABHOO & CO.

In connection with its above, Mr. MOLA-
DIBHOO CASSUMBOY has been duly
authorised to sign our firm.

RAHIMTULLABHOO PEERBHOO & CO.
Hongkong, 17th July, 1891. [1056]

NOTICE.

I SHALL continue to carry on business at
Takow and Taiwanfu (Formosa) as
MERCHANT and GENERAL COMMISSION AGENT
D. MONCRIEFF WRIGHT.

Taiwanfu, 15th July, 1891. [1056]

NOTICE.

DURING my temporary absence from the
Colony, Mr. WILLIAM PENDER
MACLEAN, who held my Power of Attorney,
will conduct the business of THE Hongkong
Telegraph.

R. FRASER-SMITH,
Editor and Proprietor.

Hongkong, 16th June, 1891. [1056]

Intimations.

W. POWELL & CO.

TRAVELLING TRUNKS.

TRAVELLING BAGS.

TRAVELLING RUGS.

RUG STRAPS and all travellers Requisites.

W. POWELL & CO.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1891. [1057]

16

ROBERT LANG & CO. NEW HATS.

BLACK, GREY AND BROWN FELTS

SINGLE TERAI HATS

(ALL SHADES).

STRAW AND PITH HATS.

Hongkong, 5th June, 1891. [1057]

16

CRUICKSHANK & CO., LTD. FAMILY AND DISPENSING CHEMISTS,

AND Commission Agents.

REFRESHING AND COOLING DRINKS FOR THE HOT WEATHER.

PURE FRUIT JUICES.

Lemon, Raspberry, Strawberry, Apple and Pear &c., &c.

Rose's Raspberry Vinegar, Moutserat Lime Juice, and Lime Juice Cordial.

GRANULAR RASPBERRY CITRATE.

(Victoria Efervescent Salts—The universal Blood Purifier).

All requisite Medicines for the "DOG," Mange Lotion, Worm Powders, Carbolic Soap, &c., &c.

JAPAN VEILCHEN PERFUMES AND SOAP, ORIZA PERFUMES SOLID.

Hongkong, 26th May, 1891. [1057]

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right bear of it. He said, "Who will know of it?" I left and returned to my shop. On the 10th May I went to the Pun Au Kui and there saw the third defendant. He took me into a room. He said, "I have found a way for you to borrow \$4,000." He said the lender would give me 40 per cent of the money. I was afraid. He said "Who need know; besides, you need not spend it." I said 40 per cent was very high, I would give five per cent. He said he would see the lender again. After this he left the place and went away.

Second defendant said, "Do you want to borrow \$7,000?" because I can lend you at 40 per cent. He asked me how old I was. I said twenty-one. I wanted sixty per cent. He refused it. Third defendant pulled me into the verandah and said "Don't be a fool, take 40 per cent, you need never repay it." I said I was twenty-one when asked, because the third defendant told me to do so. He told me to go to Mr. Denny and make out the paper. I did not go because I was sleepy that day. The third defendant came to me and asked why I had not gone. I said I was afraid. On the 5th May I want to Mr. Denny's office with the third defendant. Second and fourth defendants were there. Mr. Denny refused to have anything to do with the matter. Third defendant said we would go to another solicitor. He told us to go to the Pun Au Kui and await their turn. He came afterwards and said we would go to Mr. Rodyk's office. Mr. Rodyk's clerk said he would require \$100 as fees. I did not see Mr. Rodyk. I should not know Mr. Rodyk if I saw him now. In Mr. Rodyk's office were the three defendants and myself. I sat and waited there for about an hour. Mr. Rodyk's clerk, Mr. Ng Mak Ho, made up two papers in English and told me to sign. I do not understand English. The documents were not read over to me, but one I understood to be a promissory note, the other a registration paper. I received the money in Mr. Rodyk's office. The second defendant gave me \$3,000. I do not think Ng Mak Ho knew how much was paid to me. The third and fourth defendants saw the money paid. When I received the money I gave third defendant \$300 in all, \$700 for himself, \$100 for Ng Mak Ho, also a further \$60 to Ng Mak Ho for fees. I did not see him pay any money to Ng Mak Ho. I took away \$1,940. The second and fourth defendant both saw me give this money to the third. Before this day I had not received on account anything. All I got of the \$7,000 was \$2,000. I received this money between 1 and 2 p.m. I went then to the club with the third defendant. There I met Yung Ut Wo. He introduced himself. We both went for a walk. We went to the Pun Sun-in and we gambled at fanta. I lost \$500. None of the defendants were there. Yung Ut Wo did not play and when he found I had lost \$500 he took me away. On the same day he took me to another gambling house to win back the \$500. I lost \$600 more. Yung Ut Wo did not play. He then took me to the Kwan Fung brothel in Lower Lascar Row and I spent the night there. That cost me \$30. He then said "You lost \$1,100 last night, let us try and win it back." He took me to the Shen Ka gambling house, where I lost another \$500. He then took me to the Wu Yung Lan eating house, where I ordered a foreign supper and sent for the third and fourth defendants. The supper cost me \$50. After supper there was some talk of my borrowing more money. Third defendant said to Yung Ut Wo that I had lost all my money and asked if he knew of any one who would lend me more. Yung Ut Wo said "Go to the Pun Au Kui, and when I have settled anything I will come there." Three or four days after the supper I heard about the loan. On the 2nd May the third defendant took me to second defendant and said he would lend me more money. Tam Saan and Ng Mak Ho were there. Ng Mak Ho said the two papers signed with reference to the \$7,000 loan would be returned and two fresh ones given as the first two could not be signed. That day I signed a promissory note to Chan Tat for \$1,000 and received \$800. Ng Mak Ho did not see this money paid over. I then went back to Chan An Kan. I did not spend the \$800 that day. On the 27th May Pung Ut Wo spoke to me about a loan for \$5,000. He took me to Mr. Ewen's office. Two or three days before going to Mr. Ewen's office Yung Ut Wo told me he knew of a friend who would lend me \$5,000. I would give him a promissory note for \$5,000 \$675 was to be given to Chang Chu as commission. After going to Mr. Ewen's office we went to Mr. Phillip's office. At his office I executed a charge for \$1,000 and received \$750. U Ping-chang gave me the money. A promissory note was also given me for \$2,500 with my name as signatory. I had never heard of such a note. The note was stamped. U King-chung said the thing would look better if done before a lawyer. It was not a true note and was only done for the look of the thing. Mr. Phillip, three defendants and Yung Ut Wo were present when the money was paid over. Chang Sui took up the promissory note for \$2,500. When I left Mr. Phillip's office I went to the club with Chung Sui and Tam San. On the way Chung Sui said Yung Ming Chan was willing to lend me \$1,000. I got back the promissory note for which I had received \$800 and was also to receive \$2,200 more. He said "Let us go and sign at once." We went to Young Ming Shan's house. There I found three papers, the promissory note, the registration paper and the declaration of age paper. These I signed. I received \$500 in cash and got back my promissory note for \$2,250. I heard nothing about this note for \$2,250 before I left Mr. Phillip's office. When I got these sums of money, on the 27th May, I was in the Po An Kan Club playing fanta. Tam San and Yung Ut Wo were there. I lost \$2,345 there. I then went to a brothel with Yung Ut Wo. I know the Chau Kai gambling club and have played there. I have heard that Young Ming Shan was the master. Yung Ut Wo told me so. I was trifling at one time with Yung Ut Wo. He said let us go to the Chau Kai gambling house of which Young Ming Shan is the rich master. I went and won \$300. I went again after dinner and lost \$1,000. They returned me \$50. Shortly after I got this money Young Ming Shan wrote to me asking me to take share in a gambling concern at Kowloon City. I have burnt the letter. I took \$100 more. I gave the money to Yung Ut Wo to give to Young Ming Shan. I got a second letter with reference to this where from Young Ming Shan which has also been burnt. He told me that the whole of my share had been lost and that I still owed \$70. This I paid. Yung Ut Wo also asked me to take shares in a peripatetic gambling concern. I subscribed \$300 and got back \$24. My mother afterwards got hold of me and took me to a lawyer. By this time I had spent all my money. It was very late when she found me.

At this stage the further hearing of the case was adjourned until Friday the 7th inst.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MEKONG VALLEY.

HOW A BRITISH EXPLORER FOUND IT.

"Magna sit veritas, si praevalit."

Then as to the importance attached to Luang Phrabang as "an important trade centre." It doesn't begin to be one. The town consists of something over 1,000 bamboo huts of the most

miserable description. The only substantial edifice is one building for the Chieh, a very pleasant old gentleman who seems to have nothing else to do but chat with the Commissioner, drink whiskies and sodas with French travellers, traders and others and, generally speaking, keep his pocket up as well as circumstances permit. The Siamese Commissioner, Pra Palit Banuak, is the real ruler, and he is a most intelligent and able man. With reference to the townships in the interior and dotted about the mountain ranges on the disputed Franco-Siam territory: they scarcely have any existence at all, except in the elastic ramifications of some few obscure journalists. Thirty bamboo huts of the most miserable description constitute a village, in fact I have known as few as five huts clustered together spoken of as the *muang* of so-and-so. The French posts are said to be established all along the Eastern frontiers of Siam, while the Siamese, on the other hand, have quite an army at Luang Phrabang.

M. Macey is a Frenchman sent out by a Paris syndicate to push trade with the inhabitants of the Mekong valley. He carries with him all sorts of bright-coloured ornaments, silk thread, wools and nic-nacs for which he has vainly endeavoured to find buyers. The poor people have no use for such articles, and even if they had it is doubtful whether they would care to part with their rice (and that is the only commodity they could barter with—buying for cash down being almost out of the question) for what, in their words, "luxuries. But even should M. Macey succeed in getting together a few piculs of rice, and a few ounces of raw cotton, and a pound or two of cardamoms, by the time he has sent it to Bangkok, its value, let alone all consideration of profit, would be swallowed up in transit expenses. Without a railway the Laos country can become nothing more than the home of a poor rural population; and as capitalists, of a sufficiently philanthropic turn of mind, cannot be found to plunge into a costly and unprofitable enterprise, it can never pay to carry the produce of those distant regions to the markets of Europe, even supposing, for the sake of argument, that there is marketable produce to be had there in large quantities, which is certainly not the case. So much, then, for "the richest and most fertile region of the Far East." Then, again, there is the question of the vast mineral wealth of the whole region." Up to the present time neither gold, coal, or iron have been found there in paying quantities; but even the endless mountain ranges crammed full of sapphires, rubies, emeralds, tons of gold, blocks of silver, chunks of copper, and thousands of miles of the best steam coal, the cost of transit to and from the mines would take the gill off the ginger-bread, to say nothing of the deadly malarial fever which, seizing every white man that sets foot in those poisonous valleys and jungles would be certain to kill European engineers and miners wholesale. The people of the Mekong valley and Luang Phrabang regions are a fairly hardy, peaceable race.

Yes, M. Pavie is the Chief of the French Boundary Commission. He has done a lot of hard work; has left a good impression on the minds of the Siamese officials (who speak well of him), and will probably turn up in Bangkok before very long to effect a settlement of the question of the Eastern boundaries of this kingdom. Slave-hunting! Marauding! Oh, dear nothing of the kind. I neither heard nor saw anything of the sort. Had such evil practices either been prevalent, or had any existence in fact, I could not have failed to know it. The people appeared happy and contented with their lot, they never having known of a better condition. As to courtesy, I may say that during the many years that I have travelled in the interior of Siam, I never heard an angry or harsh or insulting word used towards myself, and have found perfect security everywhere. Of course one has to exercise tact and discretion when travelling, that is all.

APPENDIX.

We are indebted to an old and distinguished resident for the following additional authentic historical facts respecting the foundation of the modern Kingdom of Siam by Phya Tak in 1768—

Phya Tak was successful only through the instrumentality of two great generals known as Phya Chakrakri (i.e., the founder of the present dynasty, the present King's great grandfather) and the other his brother Phya Suravati (i.e., the Wangra or, as called by Europeans, the second King of the first reign of the present dynasty). Phya Tak founded only the west bank of Bangkok, as his capital.

The subjugation of the Shan States, Malay Peninsula, Cambodia, and the whole valley of the Mekong was carried on personally by the said two great generals, especially the valley of the Mekong, for the first time in the history of Siam, was successfully brought under Siamese rule in A.D. 1779.

Phya Chakrakri, who was then in Cambodia suppressing the revolt there, was compelled to succeed Phya Tak owing to a revolution that broke out in the capital of Siam, through Phya Tak becoming insane and cruelly oppressing the people, and by Phya Suravati, another officer of Phya Tak who dethroned his master and usurped the sovereignty. The people then found no more suitable successor of Phya Tak than Phya Chakrakri, and so elected him Ruler.

The good qualities of this great general, Phya Chakrakri, are fully and briefly recorded in Burmese records and in Sir Arthur P. Phayre's "History of the Burmese," in the following words (vide page 217)—

"Phya Tak had been succeeded on the throne of Siam by Phya Chakrakri, the ancestor of the present King of that country. For greater security against Burmese attacks he removed the inhabitants of Bangkok from the west to the east bank of the river. Being a man of ability and courage, he led the Siamese armies in many actions since the fall of Ayuthia in A.D. 1767, and had revived the spirit of the people, which, after the conquest by Bureng Naung, (A.D. 1564), had been cowed under the superior force of the Burmese. The confidence thus infused into the Siamese was manifested by the vigorous attack made on the invading army."

The foregoing will, we think, suffice to prove to our readers from the evidence of an eminent eyewitness, that the resources, magnificence, productions, and brilliant prospect of the Mekong Valley and Luang Phrabang regions exist only in the idle minds of those who indulge in the mischievous pastime of telling and writing stories which are "with falsehood season'd."—*Bangkok Times.*

THE CAIRO OF TO-DAY.

To the fatalist who believes that human endeavor is an insignificant factor, if a factor at all, in the development of a people, the recent history and present condition of the land of the Pharaohs must be an inexplicable fact. Within the memory of this generation, the people were *laid to the last degree*, the land swarmed with beggars, and the soil, though the richest in the world, produced scarcely more than enough to supply the wants of the native population. Mohamed Ali, the great governor of Egypt, a man of restless energy and enterprise, took the matter in hand and by a series of astute decrees made labor honorable; and

idleness a disgrace as well as a crime. To carry theory into practice, he compelled the people, *volens* *non volens*, by the inducement of the whip, the rod and the bastinado. His successor, Ismail Pacha, less regardless of the feelings of his subjects, nevertheless pursued the same policy. Tewfik Pacha, son of Ismail, the present incumbent, follows in his father's footsteps. He is, however, but the figure-head of Great Britain, which rules the land more absolutely than it does any city, ward or parish at home. The result of these changed conditions is visible at first sight. More land is under cultivation to-day than at any time in the past five centuries, and larger harvests are produced per acre than ever before in that period. The beaver has been forced into the ranks of industry, and is not numerous in the Nubian capital as in New York, Boston or Chicago. The food supply has increased so that the cost of living has been reduced to very low figures, while wages on the other hand have held their own. The country flourishes, and its national debt is being liquidated gradually but certainly.

This is the bright side of the picture, but its reverse is not so agreeable. The policy of the present administration (which as stated, in English) is to favor England at the expense of Egypt. While the country is admirably situated for manufactures, the authorities so impose taxes as to kill any existing industry and prevent the formation of new ones. Thus the sugar-cane grows like a weed and might be the basis of great manufacture. Yet the political conditions imposed are such that it is profitable to export raw sugar to France and England, to there refine it, to bring it back to the very town where it was grown and there sell it for less than what the native sugar would cost under existing circumstances.

A second illustration of the present policy was afforded lately by the imposition of a tax of 8 per cent, on home-made cotton-seed oil. The land produces thousands of tons of seed, which are taken to Europe, there pressed and converted into oil, candles, soap, glycerine and oilcake. The merchants of Alexandria saw an opportunity to increase local prosperity, and built a mill. This, with inexperienced hands prospered and was able to compete with the imported cotton seed products on equal terms. It had no more than displayed its ability to make money for both capitalist and laborer, when the tax referred to was suddenly enacted, and as was undoubtedly intended by the powers that be, the industry became a thing of the past. Upon even terms, Egypt could make cotton thread, cloth, and lace cheaper than any other country. This would injure, if not ruin, English trade in the northern part of Africa, as well as in Asia Minor. For that reason every attempt to start cotton-mills in this land has been frowned at by the government.

As a consequence Egypt is essentially an agricultural country, with every probability it will remain so, as long as England holds the reins of power. Yet even here, there has been a singular disregard of the principles of commerce which are obeyed in every other country. When a land raises large crops, the first thing to be done is to move them to the mercantile centres, and to move them requires good roads, bridges, water-roads and railways. Of these Egypt can not boast. Roads, there are none. There are camel paths and donkey paths. They are usually on the levees or canal banks, and are irregular and dangerous. The crops are transported on the backs of the two useful animals named, but the transportation is slow and expensive. If a famine broke out in Khartoum, or even Dongola, the people would be dead and buried a month before a caravan could reach them from Janth or Duhamur, and even were they alive, the cost of transportation would make flour of the value of silver. There are but few bridges, and they belong mainly to the railroads. Instead of bridges, there are ferries numberless. They are all of one type. A cumbersome flat boat, which is pulled along a rope fastened from bank to bank. The charge, small enough to an American, is large from a native standpoint; the delay is great, and when the river is very high in the flood season, or low in the dry season, the boats are seldom usable. The water routes are the chief and the best means for carrying goods. But they involve a trifling waste of time and energy. The boats, called *cabibas*, are flat-bottomed, high propped up with one lateen sail. With a very favorable wind, which occurs once in ten times, they make about five miles an hour; on most occasions they are drawn by a sinewy Arab who manages to make both himself and boat cover space at about two miles an hour. The railway system of Egypt is a capital example of "how not to do it." Though there are no serious engineering difficulties to surmount, and the cost of labor is ridiculously low, yet the fares and freight rates are almost prohibitively high. The sum of the management seems to be the devoting of lines to the soldier and pleasure-seeker, to the exclusion of everything else. Little or no regard is paid to the transfer of mails, to the upbuilding of a large communication and local traffic, or to making connections with steamship lines. On the main line from Cairo to Alexandria, the retardation of the trains is from fifteen to thirty-five minutes per train; on the line from Cairo to Suez it is anywhere from a half-hour to four hours. The freight traffic is not neglected; it is not considered.

Under such auspices, the lot of the agriculturist is not a happy one. His rent and land-taxes are onerous enough, but they are further increased by special taxes and a poll tax. When he takes his goods and crops to the nearest city, he is stopped at the gates by the police and compelled to pay an octroi upon all he brings. If, the year through, his income averages 25 cents a day, he is very happy. He pays wages proportionate to these figures. To the day laborer he pays from 10 to 20 cents a day. So grinding is this unnatural poverty, that the women and the children work the same as the men. Little boys of three to six years lead the Egyptian buffaloes to their daily work and mount guard over them the day long, and girls of the same age shell corn, pick beans, gather cow dung and fashion it into rude cakes for fuel, or collect scraps of wood and pieces of cloth, and brambles. In every market town you can see groups of little toddlers sorting grain with a quickness and accuracy worthy of an adult. For this work they are paid from 2 to 5 cents. In many fields it is cheaper to use human labor than to use machinery. Of this, sorting beans or coffee are illustrations. In other fields the would-be-user has not the cash to buy the instrument or mechanism required and keeps on as his ancestors did in the days of the Pharaohs. A good pump that two men would do the work of eight, costs about \$30 in Egypt. The farmer to whom it would be priceless boon, not having the \$30, continues to employ the 8 men, and pays them chiefly in farm products and not in cash.

The cause of this universal poverty is known to all in Egypt. The extravagance of the Khedive, about which so much ado was made by European newspapers, and the brilliant prospect of the Mekong Valley and Luang Phrabang regions exist only in the idle minds of those who indulge in the mischievous pastime of telling and writing stories which are "with falsehood season'd."—*Bangkok Times.*

The foregoing will, we think, suffice to prove to our readers from the evidence of an eminent eyewitness, that the resources, magnificence, productions, and brilliant prospect of the Mekong Valley and Luang Phrabang regions exist only in the idle minds of those who indulge in the mischievous pastime of telling and writing stories which are "with falsehood season'd."—*Bangkok Times.*

TO-DAY'S
ADVERTISEMENTS.

PUBLIC AUCTION
OF
MILLINERY AND DRAPERY.

THE UNDERSIGNED has received instructions from the Hongkong Trading Co., Ltd., to sell by Public Auction, on SATURDAY, the 8th August, 1891, commencing at 2.30 p.m. *Without Reserve.*

The remaining portion of a quantity of MILLINERY, DRAPERY, LADIES' DRESS MATERIALS, HOSIERY, and other GOODS. TERMS OF SALE—Cash on delivery.

G. R. LAMMERT, Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 6th August, 1891. [108]

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN LLOYD'S STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

STEAM FOR SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, BOMBAY, ADEN, HOODIEIDAH, MASSAWAH, SUAKIN, JEDDAH, SUEZ, PORT SAID, BRINDISI, TRIESTE, VENICE AND FLORENCE.

(Taking cargo through rates to CALCUTTA, MADRAS, PERSIAN GULF, RED SEA, BLACK SEA, LEVANT, and ADRIATIC PORTS).

THE COMPANY'S STEAMSHIP

"PANDORA."

Captain G. Mersel, will be despatched as above on FRIDAY, the 21st inst., at NOON. Cargo will not be received on board after 3 P.M. prior to date of sailing.

For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to

DAVID SASSOUN, SONS & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 6th August, 1891. [1078]

FOR NEW YORK, VIA SUEZ CANAL

THE Steamship

"MACDUFF."

Captain Porter, will be despatched for the above port on the 28th instant.

For freight, apply to

DODWELL, CARLILL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 6th August, 1891. [1078]

which Christian bankers will go with modern debtors. A government note for 6 months for \$1,000 was sold for \$900, and at maturity was taken up with a note for 6 months for \$1,500, which was paid. In other words, at 25 per cent. The capacity of the money-lenders was surpassed by that of the foreign office-holders. A lot of slimy, if not worthless, locomotives were bought by a French agent of the Khedive, and duly examined and approved by another agent, an English engineer of high distinction. The price paid was \$18,000 cash (\$9,000). Of this \$1,000 (\$15,000) was paid to the engineer \$2,000 (\$15,000) was paid to the purchasing agent, and no one knows how much more to outside parties. When remonstrated with, the engineer said, "It's merely business. I refused to pass those engines and take the much money, some other fellow would, and I should lose my position, whose salary alone is \$1,600 (\$8,000) a year." In this case there was retribution. For shortly after accepting the locomotives, one of them blew into atoms, killing for life a brother of the engineer. Another cause of expense to the people is the army of foreign office-holders who have been folisted upon them by military force. They are like the carpet baggers of the reconstruction days; no better and no worse.

It should be added that despite the evils recounted, the people are patient, polite, sober and moral. They sing as they work, or chant long quotations from the Koran. The children are round, bright-eyed, smiling and playful. All of them, old and young, are kind to one another, and equally kind to their dumb animals, the donkey, camel and horse, the buffalo, cow, goat and sheep, the cat and dog. Courtesy and hospitality are the rule everywhere. There is a great future in store for a race which can endure so many hardships and still preserve intact the higher attributes of humanity.—E. S. in the *Sociologic News*.

SCOTT'S Emulsion of Pure Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites, is the most valuable remedy for Consumption, Scrofula, General Debility, Wasting Diseases of Children, Chronic Coughs, and Bronchitis that has ever been produced. It is very palatable: it is very latting and strengthening. It will ease at once the most violent cough and will give both comfort and strength to the sufferer. It possesses the combined virtues of these popular remedies in their fullest form. Any Chemist can supply it.—A. S. Watson & Co. (Ltd.), agents in Hongkong and China. [1089]

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Commercial.

LATEST QUOTATIONS.
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cum New Issue
100 per cent. premium, buyers.
Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$95 per
share, buyers.
China Traders' Insurance Company—\$65 per
share, sellers.
North China Insurance—Tls. 375 per share,
buyers.
Canton Insurance Company, Limited—\$107 per
share, sellers.
Yangtze Insurance Association—\$102 per
share, buyers.
On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150
per share.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—\$310 per
share, buyers.
China Fire Insurance Company—\$35 per share,
sellers.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—\$99
per cent. premium, buyers.
Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—
\$32 ex div., per share, buyers.
China and Manla Steam Ship Company—60
per share, sellers.
Hongkong Gas Company—\$13 per share,
sellers.
Hongkong Hotel Company—\$65 per share,
buyers.
Hongkong Hotel Co.'s Six per cent. Debentures
—\$50.
Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited
—30 per cent. discount, buyers.
Douglas Steamship Company—\$49 per share,
sellers.
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$182
per share, sellers and sellers.
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$83
per share, sellers.
Hongkong Ice Company—\$87 per share, sellers.
Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited
—\$75 per share.
Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Limited—\$7 per
share, sellers.
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—\$19 per share,
ex div., buyers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—24 per cent.
premium, sellers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—5 per cent.
premium, buyers.
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1886 E—14 per cent.
premium.
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company,
Limited—\$113 per share, buyers.
The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Limited—
\$25 per share, nominal.
Punjum and Sunghe Dua Samantan Mining Co.,
Limited—\$3 per share, buyers.
The Raub Gold Mining Co., Limited—\$0.85 per
share, sellers.
Imuris Mining Co., Limited—\$91 ex New Issue
per share, sellers and sellers.
The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited—\$4
per share, sellers.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown
Company—\$82 per share, sellers.
Tongqui Coal Mining Co.—\$340 per share,
buyers.
The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co.,
Limited—\$65 per share, buyers.
H. G. Brown & Co., Limited—\$47 per share,
sellers.
Cruckshank & Co., Limited—\$25 per share,
nominal.
The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.
The Austin Arms Hotel and Building Company,
Limited—\$10 per share, sellers.
The China-Bonco Co., Limited—\$9 per share,
sellers.
The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited—
\$12 per share, sellers.
The Green Island Cement Co.—\$15 per share,
sellers.
The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Limited—
\$80 ex per share, sellers.
The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Limited—\$6
per share, sellers.
Geo. F. & Co., Limited—\$15 per share,
sellers.
The West Point Building Co., Limited—\$25
per share, buyers.
The Peak Hotel and Trading Co., Limited—\$5
per share, sellers.
The Lubuk Planting Co., Limited—\$12 per
share, sellers.
The Jelebu Mining and Trading Co., Limited—
\$3 per share, buyers.
The Selama Tin Mining Co., Limited—50 cents
per share, sellers and sellers.
The Shamen Hotel Co., Limited—nominal.
The Kowloon Land Investment Co., Limited—
\$15 per share, buyers.
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ld.—
\$16 per share, buyers.
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ld.—
Founders' shares, £150 per share, sellers and
buyers.
London and Pacific Petroleum Co., Ld.—\$15
buyers.
The National Bank of China, Ld.—60 per cent.
div. sellers.
The National Bank of China, Ld.—Founders'
shares, \$180 per share, sellers.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON—Bank, T. T.\$3/2
Bank Bills, on demand\$3/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight\$3/3
Credits at 4 months' sight\$3/3
Documentary Bills, at 4 months'
sight\$3/3
ON PARIS—
Bank Bills, on demand\$0.75
Credits at 4 months' sight\$1.50
On India, T. T.\$2/2
On Demand\$2/2
Bank, T. T.\$1/2
Private, to 10 days' sight\$1/2

MAILS EXPECTED.

THE FRENCH MAIL.—
The Messagerie Maritime Co.'s steamer
Yankee, with the French mail, will be 10th ult.,
left Singapore on the 5th instant, and may be
expected here on the 15th.

THE GERMAN MAIL.

The Norddeutscher Lloyd Co.'s steamer
Prussia, carrying the German mails, dated
Berlin of the 7th ult., left Singapore on the
2nd instant and may be expected here to-morrow.

THE AMERICAN MAIL.

The P. M. S. Co.'s "C. B." left
Seattle, from San Francisco to the 15th ult.,
left Yokohama on the 5th instant, and may be
expected here on the 9th.

THE INDIAN MAIL.

The steamer *Aravati*, Aspin, from Cal-
cutta, left Singapore on the 4th instant and may
be expected here on the 10th.

THE CANADIAN MAIL.

The Canadian Pacific Steamship Co.'s steamer
Empress of India, left Vancouver on the 8th ult.,
left Yokohama on the 5th instant, and may be
expected here on the 9th.

STEAMERS EXPECTED.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Admiral*,
left Shanghai on the 10th instant, and may be
expected here on the 15th.

The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Guinea*,
left Singapore on the 3rd instant, and may be
expected here on the 9th.

Commercial.

The China Shippers' Mutual S. N. Co.'s steamer
Ophir, from London and Liverpool, left Singa-
pore on the 6th instant and may be expected
here on the 11th.
The China Shippers' Mutual S. N. Co.'s
steamer *Chingwo*, from London and Liverpool,
passed the Canal on the 28th ultime, and may
be considered due at Penang on or about the
15th instant.
The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Talbot* left
Bombay on the 1st ultime and is due here on
the 17th instant.
The Canadian Steamship Co.'s steamer
Empress of China left Liverpool on the 13th
ultime and is due here on the 26th instant.
The P. & O. S. N. Co.'s steamer *Shanghai* left
Antwerp for this port on the 1st instant.

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.

TOONAN, Chinese steamer, 938, J. Warwick,
5th August.—Whampoa 5th Aug., General
—C. M. S. N. Co.
CHUSAN, German steamer, 623, W. Wendt, 6th
August.—Whampoa 5th August, General
—C. M. S. N. Co.
LIBELLE, British steamer, 265, G. Grant, 6th
August.—Newchwang and Chefoo 29th
July, General.—E. C. Ray.
DELTA, French steamer, 717, Abrial, 5th August,
—Haliphon 7th August, General—Mediterranean
series Maritimes.
GENERAL WERNER, German steamer, 3,020, B.
Blanke, 28th July.—Yokohama 19th July,
Mails and General—Melchers & Co.
GALIC, British steamer, 4,200, G. F. Pearce,
31st July.—San Francisco 7th July, and
Yokohama 21st, Mails and General—O. & O. S. S. Co.
NINCHOW, British steamer, 1,735, H. L. Allen,
6th August.—Shanghai and Amoy 24th, and
Amoy 4th, General.—Arnold, Karberg & Co.
FUSHUN, Chinese steamer, 1,504, A. Croad, 6th
August.—Shanghai 3rd August, General—
C. M. S. N. Co.
HATTAN, British steamer, 1,183, S. Ashton, 6th
August.—Foochow 31st July, Amoy 4th, and
Swatow 5th, General—D. Laprak & Co.
LOMBARDY, British steamer, 1,570, Francis Cole,
25th July.—Bombay 6th July, and Singa-
pore 20th, General—P. & O. S. N. Co.
METAPEDIA, British steamer, 1,456, Frazer, 6th
August.—Barrow 4th June, and Singapore
23rd July, Rails.—Government.
MONKTON, British steamer, 1,891, Beasley,
25th July.—Moj 22nd July, Coal, and
General Order.
PIAZA VIDA, British steamer, 161, A. Stepanoff,
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co.
PIRETO, German steamer, 655, J. Jensen, 31st
July.—Touron 28th July, General—Chinese.
SISHAN, British steamer, 835, E. F. Stowell,
6th August.—Salon 2nd August, RICE.—
Kin Tye Loong.
TELEMACHUS, British steamer, 1,197, H. Jones,
6th August.—Liverpool 26th June, and Singa-
pore 31st July, General—Battenfield &
Swire.

CLEARANCES AT THE HARBOUR OFFICE.
Toonan, Chinese steamer, for Shanghai.
Ninchan, British steamer, for Singapore.
Elle, German steamer, for Manila.
Zafon, British steamer, for Amoy.
Tazon, British steamer, for Singapore, &c.
Shaw & Co.

DEPARTURES.

August 5, *Riversdale*, British str., for Nagasaki.
August 5, *Yokohama*, German steamer, for Macao.
August 5, *Cardiganshire*, British steamer, for
Singapore, &c.
August 5, *Nobe*, German str., for Singapore, &c.
August 6, *Omega*, British bark, for Callao.
August 6, *Katara-Hind*, British steamer, for
Singapore, &c.
August 6, *Velocity*, British bark, for Honolulu.
August 6, *Phra Chula Chom Klae*, British
steamer, for Yokohama.
August 6, *Yason*, British str., for Singapore, &c.
August 6, *Tatson*, British str., for Swatow, &c.
August 6, *Elle*, German steamer, for Manila.
August 6, *Nelson*, British str., for Singapore, &c.
August 6, *Toenan*, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
August 6, *Tricer*, British steamer, for Amoy.
August 6, *Thornale*, British steamer, for Aden.

PASSENGERS—ARRIVALS.

Per *Delta*, str., from Haiphong.—Mrs. Hygdon
and 8 Chinese.
Per *Ningchow*, str., from Shanghai, &c., for
Hongkong—10 Chinese. For Singapore—160
Chinese.
Per *Hafon*, str., from Foochow, &c.—163
Chinese.
Per *Shan*, str., from Saigon—45 Chinese.
Per *Compositi*, str., from Cebu—3 Chinese.
Per *Ly-ai-moon*, str., from Wahs, &c.—9
Chinese.
Per *Telemachus*, str., from Singapore, &c.—38
Chinese.

DEPARTED.

Per *Katara-Hind*, str., for Singapore—
Messrs. Warren D. Barnes, A. H. Lemon, D.
New, C. Genesee, B. Blago, B. Antonic, and
Miss Noy. For Bombay—Messrs. S. M. Cotes
and J. McElroy. For London—Mr. Blamey,
Lieut. Francis J. Patterson, and Captain J.
Macfarlane. For Sydney—Mr. McCormick.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Shan* reports that
she left Saigon on the 2nd instant. Had light
southerly winds.

The British steamer *Ningchow* reports that
she left Shanghai on the 2nd instant, and Amoy
on the 4th. Had light southerly and south-
westerly winds with fine weather, and south-
westerly swell.

The British steamer *Telemachus* reports that
she left Liverpool on the 26th June, and
Singapore on the 31st ultime. From Singapore
to Macao she had fresh south-west winds
soon, and thence had light variable airs and fine
weather.

The British steamer *Hafon* reports that
she left Foochow on the 31st ultime. Had light
northerly to north-west breeze and fine weather.
Left Amoy on the 4th. Had light variable winds
and equally weather. Left Swatow on the 5th.
Had light variable winds and cloudy weather.
In Foochow the steamer *Haiphong*, in Amoy
the steamer *Borneo* and *Fokien*. In Amoy
the steamer *Fokien* and *Fokien*.

The British steamer *Libell* reports that she
left Newchwang and Chefoo on the 20th ultime.
Experienced dirty unsettled weather of the
Saddle Group, with high confused sea and strong
southeast to east-northeast winds; thence to
port had moderate south-south-west and south-
east to east winds, weather fine and clear. On
the 4th instant passed a barque, name unknown,
with fore-top and top-gallant-mast, and main-
top-gallant-mast gone, steering north-east. On
the 3rd instant, spoke the German steamer
Amoy, from Chefoo, bound to Whampoa, in
lat. 35 deg. north and long. 120 deg. east.

Post Office.

A MAIL WILL CLOSE.

For Amoy and Shanghai.—Per *Tenier* to-
morrow, the 7th instant, at 8:30 A.M.

For Swatow, Amoy, and Tamsui.—Per *Hol-
loong* to-morrow, the 7th instant, at 11:30 A.M.
For Saigon.—Per *Amigo* to-morrow, the 7th
instant, at 4:30 P.M.

For Nagasaki, Kobe, and Yokohama.—Per
Verona to-morrow, the 7th instant, at 5:00 P.M.

SHIPPING IN HONGKONG.

STEAMERS.

AMIGO, German steamer, 771, C. G. Kreidner,
2nd August.—Saigon 26th July, Rice—
Weller & Co.

HONGKONG—STEAMERS.
Continued.

ANJER HEAD, British steamer, 1,293, J. B. Rose,
4th August.—Whampoa 4th Aug., General
—Jardine, Matheson & Co.
BIAONIO, Italian steamer, 1,499, L. Baccarini,
4th August.—Bombay 13th July, and Singa-
pore 26th, General—Carliorn & Co.
CATTERTHUN, British steamer, 1,830, J. W.
B. Darke, 25th July.—Sydney 1st Aug.,
Moreton Bay 3rd, Cleveland Bay 6th, Cook-
town 7th, Thursday Island 9th, and Port
Dawson 16th, General—Gibb, Livingston
& Co.

CHOWFA, British steamer, 1,057, F. W. Phillips,
4th August.—Bangkok and Koh-si-chang,
27th July, General—Yuen Fat Hong.

EMPEROR OF JAPAN, British steamer, 5,900, Geo.
A. Lee, R.N.R., 21st July.—Yokohama 1st Aug.,
1st July, Yokohama 14th, Kobe 24th, and Woo-
lung 16th, General—Doddwell, Carlill & Co.

FAME, British steamer, 117, Lieut. Wm. G.
Comley, R.N.R.—Hongkong Government
tender.

FRASER, Danish steamer, 397, C. L. Strand, 24th
July.—Pahkoi 21st July, and Holhoo 23rd,
General—Arnold, Karberg & Co.

GALIC, British steamer, 4,200, G. F. Pearce,
31st July.—San Francisco 7th July, and
Yokohama 21st, Mails and General—D.
Laprak & Co.

GENERAL WERNER, German steamer, 3,020, B.
Blanke, 28th July.—Yokohama 19th July,
Mails and General—Melchers & Co.

HAILOUN, British steamer, 1,841, J. Roach, 4th
August.—Tamil 31st July, Amoy 1st Aug.,
August, and Swatow 3rd, General—D.
Laprak Co.

HOLSTEN, German steamer, 985, J. Bruhn, 31st
July.—Whampoa 31st July, General—
Weller & Co.

LIBELLE, British steamer, 265, G. Grant, 6th
August.—Newchwang and Chefoo 29th
July, General—E. C. Ray.

PIAZA VIDA, French steamer, 1,504, A. Croad,
25th July.—Bombay 6th July, and Singa-
pore 20th, General—P. & O. S. N. Co.

PIRETO, German steamer, 655, J. Jensen, 31st
July.—Touron 28th July, General—Chinese.

PIRETO, German steamer, 655, J. Jensen, 31st
July.—Touron 28th July, General—P. & O. S. N. Co.

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PIRETO, German steamer, 655, J. Jensen, 31st
July.—Touron 28th July, General—P. & O. S. N. Co.

LORD Connewara, of unsavory divorce renown, paid his respects to the Emperor of Japan at the Imperial Palace, and was received in audience at 10 a.m. on the 15th ulto.

A COLLISION occurred in the Shanghai river on the 26th ulto, between the *Ningchow* and *Glendower*. The damage done to the former steamer is slight, but the latter vessel has a hole in her starboard side above the water line.

SATAN.—What's the matter, Beelzebub? Beelzebub!—A large party at the gate from Hongkong, natives and brokers, and there's not room for them all. Sir.—Satan!—Dear me, I wish the Hongkong annexes were finished! Let the pirates stay outside and wait, but admit the others.

The body of the foreigner who was found in the Shanghai river on the 17th June has now been identified as that of Ingobert Johansen, a sailor belonging to the Norwegian steamer *Bonches Harken*. Identification was effected through the medium of deceased's clothes and a knife that he wore.

THE Singapore *Free Press* states that the steamers *Nam Chow* and *Flinthive* have not yet been released from quarantine owing to the occurrence of a fatal case of cholera on board each vessel. The *Flinthive* has lost another of its native crew and the *Nam Chow* a Chinese passenger for Hongkong.

TELEGRAPHIC intelligence has been received here to the effect that the railway line which will connect the Inuius Miner with the coast, is expected to be completed in a fortnight's time. This, of course, should materially affect the value of the scrip of this Company which by fully fifty per cent. of local residents has hitherto been credited with little more than a mythical existence.

RUMMERS were going the rounds of Shanghai on the 26th ulto, of a serious rising in Canton, and the rebels were supposed to have invaded Hupeh, and to be marching on Hankow. It, however, was really a trivial affair of some mountain bandits, who burnt some roadside inns at Shangchung on the frontier of Hupeh, and plundered a caravan of twenty-three wheel-barrows which was on its way to Hankow, after which the bandits retired to their mountain fastnesses.

VERY interesting and amusing was the football match played last evening (25th ulto) on the Parade Ground by the "Duffers" and "Dum-mies" of the Regiment. The teams were dressed in imitation of Chinese, Japanese, Irishmen, Highlanders, negroes, "mounted" clowns—and a lot. For about an hour these representatives of all nations cavorted about, utterly regardless of the rules of the game, but to the infinite diversion of fully a thousand spectators. The "lads" side seemed to win.

IT is reported that a man named Sekiguchi (Mampel), of Tokubanji, has invented a combination swimming dress and machine, which can be used in the case of an accident, when one is obliged to plunge into water. When in the water a person can stand up, the body from the breast upwards being above water, so that he can read, write, etc., and in the event of the sea being very rough, a hood is provided to shelter the face from the waves. As soon as a patent is obtained, public experiments will be made at Shingawa or in the Sumidagawa. The inventor is at present residing in Tokyo.

A VETERANS' three lengths swimming handicap, for a silver cup presented by a member, attracted a large attendance at the Recreation Club bathhouse last evening (July 26th). There were about a dozen entries, but only half the number competed. The length of the course was 135 yards, the limit man, Mr. F. W. Wats, receiving 45 seconds start, Mr. D. J. Patrick being scratch. For one length the pace was decidedly fast, but at the end of the second length Mr. H. C. Manning (10 secs.) forged ahead in good style, which so disheartened the remainder that they did not pass the post. The winner's time was 2:25 minutes—about a yard a second.

THE *Peking Gazette* reports that the Governor General of Chihli, having reported that the former Tacto Fuh-kung after being degraded had contributed 718,10,000 towards the relief of destitute people, the donor was restored to the rank of expectant Tacto. To his restoration objections have been raised. Fuh-kung was originally a clerk in the Canton Customs Offices, and gradually purchased his several ranks. The objections are that he re-purchased his ranks far too cheaply, and that the ancient regulations regarding the purchases of office, rank and title, should be upheld more strictly in future, although, in the present case, an alteration cannot take place, an Imperial Edict settling the matter, having been promulgated.

THE *Nippon* observes that Russia and China have recent years alternately attempted to make their influence supreme in the peninsular kingdom. In 1885, Russia first approached the Korean Court with a proposal for a secret treaty, but the attempt failed owing to active interference by China. Three years afterwards, China produced considerable "evidence" by an attempt to depose the present King of Korea. And now it is again the turn of Russia to push her claims. So the contest is going on between these two Powers, and Korea's independence is in greater danger than ever. In two other articles the *Nippon* invokes the chivalry of its countrymen to help their unfortunate neighbours' endeavours to maintain an independent status. Further it is the interest of Japan to keep Korea free, for should the peninsula be occupied by Russia, the safety of this country would be at once menaced, and the Tokyo journal remarks that Japan is bound by every consideration to avert such an event.

ACCORDING to the *Japan Mail* the visit of the Chinese squadron continues to attract journalistic attention. The *Japan Mail* remarks that though its countrymen had not failed to keep themselves informed of the development, made by the Chinese Navy, they have nevertheless been surprised to discover that the real progress of their neighbour in this direction is far more remarkable than they had imagined. Our contemporary believes that Western nations, fall into the same errors about the Japanese Navy as the Japanese people have hitherto made about the Chinese. Consequently, it repeats what it has, more than once suggested, that the Government should send out a squadron of war vessels on a voyage round the world. Such a step, we are assured, by the Tokyo journal, would do much to remove the misconceptions entertained by Occidental nations about the progress of Japan. It is not the *Japan Mail*'s intention to compare the naval of Japan and China, but it cannot refrain from noting that the Japanese navy is far ahead of the Chinese in the qualities which constitute the real strength of a navy, namely the ability, skill, and discipline of its officers and men. It recommends that before a Chinese Government should fit out a fleet of vessels at no matter what cost, for a voyage round the world.

THE two soldiers of the 91st Regiment who were charged with robbing a drunken sailor on the Praya on Saturday night were brought up again on remand in the Police Court to-day (26th ulto), and sentenced to six months' imprisonment each. The two police constables who "spotted the lay" were highly commended. It is said that two days ago a similar case occurred at Kowloon, two soldiers hitching on to "Jack Ashore," getting innumerable drinks out of him, and also so many into him that he fell a prey to their martial instinct of pocket-picking. They were, we believe, subsequently dealt with by the military authorities, who would give them their deserts.

A SURPRISE.

She was a sweet girl graduate From Gilson or from Vassar; In learning, with her few could rate In beauty, none surpass her. One night she tried a telescope, Her guide a good professor, And glibly, talked of lines and scope Of focus, "dust" and "depressor." He showed her Venus. "What repeat What thereupon was shown me?" She said, "O is she not too sweet? Now please show me Adonis!"

W. E. S. F.

At the Magistracy to-day five Chinamen were charged with assaulting Yu Aku and stealing \$40 on the 17th ulto. The prosecutor repeated a horrible tale of woe—how he gambled on board the steamship *Independent*, having just received \$43.60, his pay; how he lost \$2.40 to the first defendant, and paid his debt of honour like a man; how the defendant then claimed \$40 more, and called him a "whaler"; the second defendant joined in the cry, and with others tore the other \$40 from him; how they afterwards took him to Yau-ma-ti, tied him to a tree, beat him, and tried to extort more money; and how they finally brought him back to Hongkong under a promise to "do what he could for them." He did what he could, and as a result they were each ordered to pay \$5 fine for the assault and \$5 compensation.

A CORRESPONDENT writing to the *7th Shimpō* from Seoul, under date of the 3rd ultime, says that a decision has been come to by the Min party to send a Minister to Russia to contract a secret treaty, placing Korea under the protection of Russia. The reason that this is not yet carried out is the fear that if discovered by China she will make difficulties, whilst on the other side the King delays his sanction, as the Queen and a majority of the influential officials are opposed to it. As, however, the Min party are resolved to carry out their plan, a collision may easily take place between the two factions. The Master is, however, an open secret amongst the foreign diplomatic circle, and it is rumoured that the Min party are to receive a large sum of money when the transaction is carried out. As to what measures Mr. Yuen will take, nothing is known.

THE *Kokka* is responsible for the following snake story. It says that on the 17th ulto, a man called Nomura Tabichi, fifty years ago, went out with his wife Otoya, who was forty-eight, to pursue his usual avocation of tree-cutting in Koshitamura, province of Tamba. The husband and wife separated at a place called Matsu-yama. Shortly afterwards while engaged in felling a tree, Tabichi thought he heard his wife cry out. Running to the place, he was horrified to find that a huge snake, described as being three feet in circumference, had Otoya's head in its mouth and was engaged in swallowing her, despite her struggles. Tabichi ran off to the hamlet and summoned seven or eight of his neighbours, who, when they reached the scene of the catastrophe, found that the snake had swallowed the woman as far as her feet, and was slowly making its way to its hole. They were too much terrified to touch it, and it finally effected its escape un molested. This monster of Tamba and the mermaid of Tsushima must be bracketed together.

THE *Nippon* publishes a remarkable article on the subject of banks and companies. It takes a very gloomy view of the present situation, predicting that the failures which have already occurred are only a prelude, and will be followed shortly by others. The whole blame is laid on the shoulders of the Government, which is accused of discharging its duties of superintendence in an inefficient and perfunctory manner. It is competent for the Authorities to inspect the banks either at regular intervals or unexpectedly at any moment. The *Nippon* claims that the power thus conferred is not duly exercised; that the condition of many banks is known to be unsound, but that the Government refrains from exposing them by sudden inspection. The *Nippon* urges that the market price of their shares is steadily falling, whereas the banks pay as big a percentage as ever on their capital. The *Nippon* urges that if official superintendence is not thorough, it becomes a mischievous rather than an advantage.

"In my last letter," says a correspondent in the *7th Shimpō*, "I referred to a rumour that an intrigue was on foot to conclude a secret treaty, but the attempt failed owing to active interference by China. Three years afterwards, China produced considerable "evidence" by an attempt to depose the present King of Korea. And now it is again the turn of Russia to push her claims. So the contest is going on between these two Powers, and Korea's independence is in greater danger than ever. In two other articles the *Nippon* invokes the chivalry of its countrymen to help their unfortunate neighbours. Further it is the interest of Japan to keep Korea free, for should the peninsula be occupied by Russia, the safety of this country would be at once menaced, and the Tokyo journal remarks that Japan is bound by every consideration to avert such an event."

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ACCORDING to latest advices the U.S.S. *Alliance* was awaiting telegraphic instructions at Shanghai before proceeding to sea.

A COOLIE LOVE Ditty.

Of the feet of Li-choi are like round little poles Or the stilts which the acrobats use. When she walks, her plump soles imprint round little holes, So all are round little shoes. There are shy-toed maidens, both charming and coy, But none like my lovely Li-choi! O, the eyes of Li-choi are so sweetly oblique That they slope like a well-written V. And so small each resembles a hole in her cheek, Set with diamonds that sparkle at me. There are black eyes that maiden and brown eyes that clay, But none like my lovely Li-choi!

O, the locks of Li-choi are as straight as bamboo And as oily as well roasted goose. Three hours every week she devotes to shampoo And an hour every day to goose-grease. There are maidens whose pigtail are objects of joy, But none like my lovely Li-choi!

O, the skin of Li-choi is like very thin milk Or a sunflower at dawn in the dew. She shaves off each hair till her flesh is like silk Of a color deliciously blue.

There are maidens whose complexions a king would enjoy, But none like my lovely Li-choi.

O, the words of Li-choi are infrequent and few But they've made my emotions intense. So I bought her to-day for my wife and cook, too. For a dollar and twenty-five cents!

There are maidens cheap in Hongkong or Amoy, But none like my lovely Li-choi!

THE HONGKONG, CANTON, AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fifth half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the above Company was held at noon to-day (July 31st). There were present—Messrs. P. Ryrie (chairman), E. R. Belliss, F. A. Gomez, L. Poosnecker (directors), R. A. Gubbay, H. J. Gomes, B. N. Elias, G. E. Levy, A. T. G. Silver, E. J. Moses, A. S. Cohen, F. Henderson, H. Humphreys, A. J. B. Soares, M. H. Michael, S. L. Darby, Wong Ping Lum and T. Arnold (secretary).

The Chairman said, that the report was not particularly brilliant, the earnings of the fleet; through the great competition, being much less than they were in previous years. One of the reasons was the excess of tonnage on the Canton River, and another that a great portion of the paying cargo which the Company used to get was now sent down by junks. The P. & O. Company, for instance, had sent one steamer up to Canton to load several thousand tons of cargo direct for London. The repairs, they would see, had been very heavy, but the directors were in hopes that they would be lighter in future, especially now that the Back Reach had been opened, as the boats would not have to drag over the bar, and repairs to their bottoms would not be required. As to the *Huangtien*, the claim on the builders had been referred to arbitration, and it would be out of place to say anything about the matter at present. The opposition, as they were aware, still continued, there had been reports from time to time that it had been withdrawn, but somehow or other it didn't come off. It had been suggested by several large shareholders that the head of the Company's operations might with advantage be extended to the North, and unless matters improved in the Canton River the question would receive the serious consideration of the directors. He then invited questions, and there being none, moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mrs. Cohen seconded, and it was agreed to. Messrs. Belliss and Poosnecker were re-elected as directors, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Solomon.

Messrs. A. O'D. Gourdin and F. Henderson were re-elected auditors, on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Belliss.

The Chairman having announced that dividend warrants would be ready to-morrow, the proceedings terminated.

MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 31st ulto. There were present—H. E. Major-General Digby Barker, Officer Administering the Government; Mr. W. M. Goodman (Acting Colonial Secretary); Mr. A. J. Leach (Acting Attorney-General); Mr. S. Brown (Surveyor-General); Mr. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart (Registrar-General); Mr. N. G. Mitchell-Innes (Colonial Treasurer); Messrs. J. J. Keckwick, T. H. Whitehead, and Ho Kai.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

GOVERNMENT SUNDAY LABOUR.

The Hon. T. H. Whitehead asked the following question:—

Will the Government lay upon the table copies of Lord Knutsford's despatch, dated 16th October last, to the Officer Administering the Government on the subject of inserting in all Government contracts a provision that under such contracts work shall not be carried out on Sundays except in very urgent cases, copies of the Honourable F. Fleming's despatch in reply, and copies of Sir Wm. Des Voeux's despatch to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, dated 20th April last.

His Excellency—the first despatch named in this question will be laid on the table, I believe it has not yet been received from the printer. (The despatch had just then arrived, and was laid on the table.) There does not appear to be any despatch by the Hon. F. Fleming in reply to that. With regard to the third despatch, referred to in this question, by Sir G. W. Des Voeux, I find that no reply has yet been received from the Secretary of State to that despatch, and it is not customary to publish despatches which have not yet been replied to by the Secretary of State.

Mr. Whitehead—I think the despatch referred to has already been published in a Blue Book laid on the table of the House of Commons.

His Excellency—I was speaking of publication by this Council. I don't know who else may have seen it. It is the custom here not to publish despatches as I have stated.

The following is the despatch respecting Sunday Labour on Government Works laid on the table—Downing Street, 16th October, 1890.

Sir.—With reference to your despatch No. 153 of the 17th of May last, I have the honour to forward, for your information, copies of correspondence with the Crown Agents, as noted in the margin, relative to the engagement of a Foreman Mason for the Praya Works. In regard to the question of Sunday labour, referred to in your despatch, by the Standing Order, I have the honour to observe that you will have since received my circular despatch of 1st July last, enclosing a report of a discussion in the House of Lords, on this subject. You will have learned, from my speech on the occasion of that discussion, that in the Straits Settlements all Government contracts now contain a provision that work under those contracts shall not be carried out on Sundays, except in very urgent cases, and on special authority. I would suggest that a similar rule should be adopted in Hongkong if it has not already been adopted. I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

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